

Volunteer Fire Department. Even during the worst of times, such as the Great Storm of 1933, the company delivered kerosene by skiff to hard hit St. George Island.

After S. Bernard Burch's death in May of 1944, a new era began with his son, F. Elliott Burch, Sr., who took over the reigns of the operation and guided the company through a period of steady growth for several decades until turning over the day-to-day duties to his two sons so he could devote more time to local politics. Serving as St. Mary's County Commissioner President from 1962 to 1970, F. Elliott, Sr. helped to steer St. Mary's County through a period of important community investments, during a time when local government was expanding to provide more services.

Outstanding service and high quality products have been the hallmarks of the Burch Oil Company since its founding by S. Bernard Burch in 1928; and on its 75th Anniversary, four generations of the Burch family, with a fifth soon to come of age, help to guide the hardworking and dedicated employees that have helped to make this company successful. In addition to their business success, they have been an integral component in helping to build St. Mary's County through their selfless commitment and belief in also performing public service to give back to the community in which they live. Today Burch Oil Company is led by F. Elliott (Sonny) Burch, Jr. and his brother Donald (Buddy) Burch, who have set their own high standard for community involvement, supported by 300 plus employees who carry on that proud tradition.

On behalf of the citizens of St. Mary's, Charles, and Calvert Counties, it is a great privilege to honor the Burch Oil Company for reaching the milestone of 75 years in serving the community of Southern Maryland. I ask my colleagues to join me in saluting a great example of American enterprise at its best. This company has been successful by its community, but continues to plough back its dividends every day through its public service. Congratulations to members of the Burch family and their employees and we wish you another 75 years of quality and reliable service to our community.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. GENE GREEN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 9, 2003

Mr. GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, on Thursday, May 1, 2003, I regret that I missed the vote for rollcall 158, the vote on final passage for H.R. 1258, the United States Leadership Against HIV/AIDS, Tuberculosis, and Malaria Act of 2003. I would like the record to reflect that, had I been present, I would have voted "aye" on this legislation.

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE CRYSTAL RIVER MIDDLE SCHOOL CHEERLEADING SQUAD

HON. GINNY BROWN-WAITE

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 9, 2003

Ms. GINNY BROWN-WAITE of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Crys-

tal River Middle School Cheerleaders, from my Fifth Congressional District of Florida, for winning the national championship in their division at a competition held in Orlando last month.

The competition hosted more than 200 cheerleading squads from across the nation and truly was a venue for the best of the best to showcase their talents.

These seventh and eighth grade girls captured the top honors in the small school division and brought to Citrus County the first national championship trophy of any school, in any sport—ever.

The squad of 14 girls, led by Head Coach Irene Hupp and Assistant Coach Terry Yant, has made the city of Crystal River, all of Citrus County and the entire state of Florida very proud. I am immensely proud of them as well.

Mr. Speaker, it is my pleasure to honor Amanda Bass, Marlana Camden, Tiffany Daniel, Nicole Davis, Katie Dicks, Sabrina Gonzales, Brittany Jones, Amber Lunginsland, Amanda Mayor, Alyssa Parker, Hailey Roberts, Jilica Smith, Jacke Vivian, and Kylee Zarro.

They have accomplished a remarkable feat and deserve every accolade sent their way. I am proud to honor them before this body this evening and am proud to have such motivated hard working young people call my district home.

SERVICEMEMBERS CIVIL RELIEF ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. TOM UDALL

OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 7, 2003

Mr. UDALL of New Mexico. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 100, of which I am proud to be a cosponsor. Considering the hundreds of thousands of people serving our country around the world and the many active duty servicemembers currently returning from the Middle East, this is a very timely bill.

As a member of the House Veterans' Affairs Committee, I support strengthening legal protections for those on active duty in the armed forces. Just as we depend on them to defend our country, they depend on us to provide fair and updated benefits and services.

This bill updates laws in place to protect servicemembers from being harmed in civil, financial, or legal proceedings. All too often I hear stories of deployed soldiers receiving calls from family that they cannot afford to pay rent and will face eviction, or that debt is piling up, or that the family cannot break a lease in order to move to a more affordable home. This bill, which has the support of many veterans groups and military organizations, as well as the legal community, would help fix those dire situations for those serving in active duty and their families.

I am pleased to vote in favor of providing these overdue protections revisions. The passage of H.R. 100 will be a testament to our men and women in uniform—and their families—that their country supports and applauds their courageous service.

IN HONOR OF TERRI HAMILTON BROWN

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 9, 2003

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor and recognition of Terri Hamilton Brown, upon the occasion of her retirement as Executive Director of the Cleveland Metropolitan Housing Authority (CMHA).

Ms. Brown's significant impact on the CMHA organization in less than 5 years has positively shifted the focus of housing in Cleveland where it should be—on the people who seek and depend upon affordable housing in Cuyahoga County. Her focus on revitalization, reorganization and renewal of the CMHA agency helped to build bridges within our community to make available quality and affordable homes for low-income families and individuals who are trying to break free of the devastating cycle of poverty.

Because of her leadership, integrity, and outstanding ability to connect easily with others, the CMHA organization has been raised to new levels of administrative efficiency, intercommunity partnership, accountability and true achievement that can be readily seen along our city streets. Ms. Brown's persistence, expertise and complete commitment on behalf of CMHA has produced profound strides in allowing CMHA to carry out its goals and mission as never before.

Mr. Speaker and Colleagues, please join me in honor and recognition of Terri Hamilton Brown whose vision, hard work and dedication on behalf of CMHA and all the people it serves has left an indelible and significant impact upon our community. Ms. Brown has rebuilt the foundation of a housing agency that successfully serves our most vulnerable citizens, and her work will have a lasting impact on every CMHA tenant and our entire Cleveland neighborhood for years to come. Please join me in wishing Ms. Brown our very best as she moves on to new challenges as Executive Director of University Circle Incorporated in Cleveland.

WHERE ARE THE DETAILS OF NEW FCC REGULATIONS?

HON. JOE BARTON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 9, 2003

Mr. BARTON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, more than 2 months ago Federal Communications Commission voted 3-2 on changes to the local telephone competition provisions of 1996 Telecommunications Act. This "Triennial Review" is required of this agency by the law we passed.

There has got a better way to regulate our Nation's telecommunications industry right now it is in nothing but a tailspin. The FCC's recent Triennial Review ruling has had many unfortunate portions, and clearly cannot be what the Supreme Court was expecting when it remanded the FCC's earlier decision. They seem to allow some companies the ability to provide telephone and Internet services across the nation with minimal investment, and minimal technicians and employees.

Unfortunately, after 2 months, no one, including the FCC, has seen the final details of these new regulations.

Mr. Speaker, how can regulators vote on provisions that they themselves have not seen? The internal turf battles within this agency go far beyond the walls of the Portals. While bureaucrats argue over how many angels can sit on the head of a pin, real people in this industry are being harmed.

Since January 2000, over 600,000 jobs have been lost in the telecommunications industry, most due to a failed policy of former Chairman Reed Hundt who tried to create artificial local competition.

Since the vote by the FCC on February 20th, many more jobs have been lost. Delay in issuing regulations by the FCC only continues this "meltdown" of one of our premiere growth industries.

I for one do not condone this bureaucratic delay and would hope that the FCC drastically changes its initial ruling from last February.

WELCOMING USS "LINCOLN" HOME

HON. RICK LARSEN

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 9, 2003

Mr. LARSEN of Washington. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the women and men on board the USS *Abraham Lincoln*.

For nearly ten months the sailors on board the *Lincoln* have been engaged in protecting our homeland. During their deployment—the longest deployment for an aircraft carrier in 30 years—the crew served courageously and selflessly. The brave women and men aboard the *Lincoln* have been embraced by a thankful nation.

Having just returned from the *Lincoln's* homecoming celebration, I can say without a doubt that the City of Everett and Snohomish County are happy to have the sailors home. While seeing them on national television gave me and our nation hope, seeing them in person with their families was even more inspirational.

I want to thank every one of those sailors today for their service, and I also want to thank their families for their service, even though it is a different kind of service. The sailors and their families sacrificed for this country. We owe them a debt of gratitude.

While our technology and know-how far surpassed our opponent's, the true success of Operation Iraqi Freedom was due to the women and men who volunteered for this service. Their commitment, dedication, bravery, and willingness to serve are what define our military might.

To those who served on this historic sailing of the USS *Abraham Lincoln*, I say: You have done your job and you have done it well. Our nation thanks you.

I am honored to be their Representative in Congress. I thank the Speaker for allowing me to speak on the floor today.

TRIBUTE TO THE SAN FERNANDO VALLEY'S HEROES IN LAW ENFORCEMENT

HON. BRAD SHERMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 9, 2003

Mr. SHERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to five outstanding members of our law enforcement and firefighter communities. Bradley C. Thompson, Michael Jensen, Jim Pollock, Brian Brown, and Edward Lee Teter will be honored tonight at the Valley Community Legal Foundation of the San Fernando Valley Bar Association "Law Day Dinner" honoring "Heroes in Law Enforcement." Each of these fine men have dedicated their lives to the service of the San Fernando Valley and leave a legacy of heroism for all to admire.

Deputy Bradley C. Thompson of the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department distinguished himself last December when he fearlessly rescued a driver from a burning vehicle. Deputy Thompson observed a passenger van engulfed in flames on December 10 and immediately responded. Bradley selflessly proceeded into the fire and ultimately freed the driver, undoubtedly saving his life. His heroism is truly admirable.

Los Angeles Police Detective Michael Jensen has excelled at his job since joining the force in 1972. Michael ascended to the rank of Detective in North Hollywood. In that role, Officer Jensen has become a mentor for the division and has solved many critical cases. Michael continues to lead his fellow officers in the Valley and has proven to be an exceptional asset to our law enforcement community.

City of San Fernando Police Detective Jim Pollock began solving narcotics cases in 1979. He has become a vital liaison between local law enforcement and federal police agencies such as the FBI, ATF, and DEA. Detective Pollock was nationally recognized in 1996 for his efforts to dismantle a large interstate drug trafficking organization. Jim is invaluable to our communities efforts to improve the lives of San Fernando Valley residents.

California Highway Patrol officer Brian Brown began assignment in the West Valley in 1998. Over the past five years, Officer Brown has served the Ventura Freeway corridor with bravery. This past January, Brian happened upon a serious accident involving a burning car that had left the roadway. Officer Brown made several attempts to free the driver from the perilous wreck. For his efforts, Brian has been rightly nominated for the Medal of Valor.

Los Angeles City Fire Fighter Edward Lee Teter has served Pacoima from Fire Station 98 since 1982. His engineering skills and leadership have been tremendous assets to the Fire Department and the East Valley. Ed has also volunteered his time and efforts to help rebuild an orphanage in Tijuana, Mexico. Mr. Teter mentors many firefighters in his station and was recently recognized as "Officer of the Year" for his unselfish service.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in commending these fine individuals on their exemplary work for San Fernando Valley residents. Each of them has set a standard for leadership and dedication we can all aspire to. It is my privilege to join the San Fernando Valley Bar Association in recognizing our wealth of outstanding police and fire officers.

EXPRESSING NEED FOR FURTHER ACTION BY FCC FOLLOWING TRIENNIAL REVIEW

HON. RALPH M. HALL

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 9, 2003

Mr. HALL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to speak to the Federal Communications Commission's Triennial Review of the 1996 Telecommunications Act adopted over two months ago on February 20, 2003.

Today, the telecommunications industry waits for some certainty and clarity regarding these new rules adopted by the FCC. These rules, dealing with local telephone competition, have yet to be put to paper so that the affected companies can review the order and make business plans accordingly.

The telecommunications sector of our economy is hemorrhaging. Lost jobs, reduced capital investment and loss of investor confidence have affected nearly every company in this sector. The lack of clarity, as to these new rules, is prolonging this downward spiral.

Mr. Speaker, I urge the Commission to act on this issue and do it as soon as possible. This sector is too important to be left on hold.

COMMENDING THE WE THE PEOPLE . . . THE CITIZEN AND THE CONSTITUTION PROGRAM AND INCLINE HIGH SCHOOL

HON. JIM GIBBONS

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 9, 2003

Mr. GIBBONS. Mr. Speaker, On April 26–28, 2003 more than 1200 students from across the United States visited Washington, D.C. to compete in the national finals of the We the People . . . The Citizen and the Constitution program, the most extensive educational program in the country developed specifically to educate young people about the Constitution and the Bill of Rights.

I am proud to announce that for the second year in a row the class from Incline High School from Incline Village represented the State of Nevada in this national event. These young scholars worked diligently to reach the national finals for the second straight year and through their experience gained a deep knowledge and understanding of the fundamental principles and values of our constitutional democracy.

The 3-day national competition is modeled after hearings in the United States Congress. The hearings consist of oral presentations by high school students before a panel of adult judges on constitutional topics. The students' testimony is followed by a period of questioning by the judges who probe their depth of understanding and ability to apply their constitutional knowledge.

Administered by the Center for Civic Education, the We the People . . . program has provided curricular materials at upper elementary, middle, and high school levels for more than 26.5 million students nationwide. The program provides students with a working knowledge of our Constitution, Bill of Rights, and the principles of democratic government.